(a) whether there was any necessity to engage the services of Mr. Sivaramakrishna Menon in the Kumbalangi Riot cases; if so, what;

(b) who recommended the said engagement?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Yes. The Special Court constituted for the trial of the cases is a full-time one, and the cases are to be tried from day to day. The services of the Sirkar Vakil could not he spared for this single matter. The Prosecuting Inspector had work in other courts. The engagement of a separate vakil was therefore an absolute necessity.

(b) The Commissioner of Police.

409. Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) have the Government instructed Mr. M. Sivaramakrishna Menon to defend Police Inspector Mr. Srinivasa Ayyar and constable Mr. Velutha in the prosecution against them and the Ezhuvas;

(b) whether the Government have enquired if there have been private engagements of vakils to help the Government prosecution and to defend the prosecution against the Police officers and the Ezhuvas?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. It is understood that the aggrieved Ezhuvas have engaged a private vakil.

410. Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) are the Government aware that the southern Division Prosecuting Inspector Mr. M. Balakrishna Menon has given vakkalath to two vakils in the Kumbalangi riot cases;

(b) has the Prosecuting Inspector obtained sanction from the Government for engaging the service of these vakils;

(c) who will meet the expenses for their engagement?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) He gave a vakkalath to one vakil.

(b) No.

(c) The private parties who engaged the vakil.

411. Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Commissioner of Police has received any petition against the Cochin Cusba Inspector from the Additional Special First Class Magistrate's Court of Ernakulam;

(b) has the Commissioner made any enquiries regarding the allegations in the petition;

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